

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
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As the economic climate has worsened over the past year, Los Angeles County has faced declining revenues and State budget cuts. To ensure a balanced budget, the Board of Supervisors has taken swift action to reduce spending or seek funding sources for important County services.

Since April 2008, the departments have curtailed their operating budgets by \$190.7 million. The latest round of 2% across-the-board reductions, included in today's recommendations for the FY 2009-2010 budget, will have a varying impact on departments.

For most departments, these cuts have minimal impact on direct services and entail actions such as reducing funding for: paper usage, computer equipment, VHS tape repairs, overtime, newsletters, out-of-state workshops, and temporary vacant positions.

For other departments, including the Departments of Children and Family Services, Probation, Public Social Services and Treasurer and Tax Collector, it seems

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clear that the 2% curtailments will have a greater impact on direct services, and that any additional cuts will affect caseloads or result in reduced revenues.

And, finally, for a few departments, including the Departments of Public Health, Parks and Recreation, and the Arts Commission, the 2% reductions will have a significant impact on programs and direct services, and may even require layoffs.

Currently, the CEO is working with departments to identify another 1% to 2% in further across-the-board cuts. Given the wide range of consequences that resulted from the last such curtailment, the CEO should consider each department's cut in the context of its total budget, and consider alternatives to minimize the impact of the reductions.

One option would be to take a more targeted and surgical approach to identifying the appropriate level of funding to cut in each department. This would require that CEO closely examine each department's budget to determine whether, for example, a 0% or a 5% reduction would be in the best interests of the County and its residents.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO to achieve the current round of cost-cutting, and any future rounds of cost-cutting, by working with each County department to identify curtailments that will achieve the maximum amount of savings possible with minimal impact to direct services; and by avoiding layoffs to the extent possible.

GC S:/ Motions/ 2009/ Targeted Cuts